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## REMARKS

In accordance with the forgoing, the specification and claims 1-6, 11 and 12 have been amended, claims 7-10 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein, and new claim 13 has been added. Claims 1-6 and 11-13 are pending and under consideration. The following remarks are respectfully submitted.

### I. Amendments to the Claims

While no objections to the claims were made by the Examiner, certain minor amendments were made merely to more clearly set forth the invention, and were not made for reasons related to patentability or to narrow the scope of the claims. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, entry of the amendments is respectfully requested.

### II. Rejections under 35 USC §112

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 5 has been amended to change "of the array of lead contact elements" to "of the plurality of lead connector elements". Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

### III. Rejections under 35 USC §102

Claims 1-4, 6-8 and 10-12 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application No. 4,628,934 to Pohndorf et al. ("Pohndorf"). The claims of the present invention are patentably distinguishable from Pohndorf and the rejection is respectfully traversed.

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The present invention is directed to an implantable medical device system that includes a first adapter and a second adaptor. The first adaptor includes a first internal surface forming a first lumen to receive a lead connector positioned within the first adapter and a first electrical contact element positioned along the first inner surface at a first distance from a first proximal end for electrically coupling with a first lead connector element of a plurality of lead connector elements when the lead connector is positioned within the first lumen. A first insulative layer extends along the first inner surface to prevent electrical coupling of other than the first lead connector element. The second adaptor includes a second internal surface forming a second lumen to receive the lead connector positioned within the second adapter and a second electrical contact element positioned along the second inner surface at a second distance, not equal to the first distance, from the second proximal end for electrically coupling with a second lead connector element of the plurality of lead connector elements other than the first lead connector element when the lead connector is positioned within the second lumen. A second insulative layer extends along the second inner surface to prevent electrical coupling of other than the second lead connector element. Each of the first adapter and the second adaptor include a respective external surface to engage the inner surface the connector bore, the respective external surfaces including a conductive surface electrically coupled to the corresponding first and second electrical contact element to electrically engage the corresponding first and second electrical contact element within the connector bore.

Pohndorf teaches an electronic electrode switching/selection circuit that minimizes the number of feedthroughs from a pacemaker case to a pacemaker neck needed to connect with pacing lead electrodes that will be actively used during operation of a pacemaker. Pohndorf does not teach an implantable medical device system that includes a first adapter and a second adaptor, as set forth in independent claims 1 and 11 of the present invention. Therefore, claim 1 and claims 2-4 and 6 dependent thereon, and independent claim 11 and claim 12

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dependent thereon are patentably distinguishable from Pohndorf. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

#### **IV. Rejections under 35 USC §103**

Claims 5 and 9 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pohndorf in view of US Patent No. 4,469,104 to Peers-Travarton ("Peers-Trevarton"). The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

Peers-Trevarton teaches a connector assembly with spaced apart metal bands. Neither Pohndorf or Peers-Trevarton, alone or in combination, teach or suggest an implantable medical device system that includes a first adapter and a second adaptor, as set forth in independent claim 1 of the present invention. Therefore, claim 1 and claim 5 dependent thereon are patentably distinguishable from Pohndorf and Peers-Trevarton. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

#### **V. New Claim Added**

New claim 13 has been added. Support for new claim 13 can be found, for example, at paragraph 26, in reference to FIG. 10. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, entry and consideration of new claim 13 is respectfully requested

#### **VI. Conclusion**

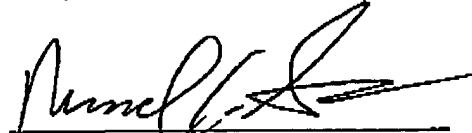
There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

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Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney to attend to these matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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